

Rob Cleverdale's Adventure.

By Seward W. Hopkins.

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CHAPTER IV.

"But the great 'Black Cat'!" exclaimed the captain, who spoke better than any one else on board. "It's only a boy!"

"But I'm grateful to you for saving my life, even if I am," said Rob, without the captain's chattering teeth.

"Oh, ho! Of course! But what under the sun are you doing in the river?"

"Him swim berry well," said one of the men, who had gone in the boat. "Him swim like fish! Him make good one!"

"Come with me," said Captain Torrey. He turned, and led the way toward the companion hatchway, whither Rob followed him.

It had been so dark on deck that Rob could not see what kind of men he had been saved by. He was therefore surprised when he entered a small but comfortable and well-lighted cabin to find the captain to be a small, swarthy, evil-faced fellow, who looked as if he would sooner kill a man than save one.

"The young senior is very wet," said the captain, with a grin that was meant to be friendly. "I will give him a change of clothing, and he may tell me how he came to be in the river. Of course, I understand he fell from that steamer that just passed."

"I fell—or was thrown," said Rob. The captain seemed to pay little attention to this. He eyed Rob narrowly, with an evident desire to measure his stature. Then he opened a trunk or sea-chest that stood in one corner of the cabin.

"Ah! Ho! Ha!" exclaimed the captain, each explosive coming louder than the preceding, as he attacked the store of garments that was packed away in the sea-chest. Finding what he was after at last, he sent one piece after another flying across the cabin toward Rob.

"There!" he said, with a grunt of satisfaction. "The young senior can

"Now, tell me how you got into the river and what you are doing here," said the captain, beginning to feel even more friendly.

"I don't believe I can tell you how I came to fall into the river," said Rob. "I am on my way to Buenos Ayres to my uncle's, and met on board the steamer a gentleman by the name of Starne. He and I were on the deck talking and he told me to look down in the water. I did so, and then I felt some one seize me and throw me in. But I can't understand why Mr. Starne should wish to kill me."

"No! No! Did you ever meet him before?"

"Never."

"Was any one else near you?"

"I saw no one else."

"Ha! Ho! Look out for Senor Starne, whoever he is. Now, who are you?"

"My name is Rob Cleverdale. I was on my way to make my home with my uncle, David Horton, of Buenos Ayres. Have you heard of him?"

The captain of the "Black Cat" gave a long whistle of surprise.

"You are the nephew of Senor Horton?"

"Yes."

"The black hand is in it."

Having uttered this mysterious sentence, the captain of the "Black Cat" walked to and fro a moment and seemed to be doing some hard thinking.

"Look here," he said, suddenly. "I didn't know what I was doing when I picked you up. Even now, I ought to throw you in again. But I won't do that. But you must promise one thing."

"Promise one thing!" echoed Rob, staring at the captain in surprise and terror. "What do you mean? Why ought you to throw me in again? What have I ever done to you that should make you wish to kill me?"

"Nothing to me, except fail in the way of my schooner," said the captain.

difference a name meant to a fellow who was sure to be killed.

"Not a word out of you about this night. Do you hear?"

"Yes," stammered Rob again.

"Very well. Now go to bed. You need sleep."

Rob looked at the captain doubtfully.

"You need not fear, if you obey," said the captain of the "Black Cat." "I like you. We are short-handed, and need a boy. You will be safe—if you keep your tongue still. If not, I cannot be responsible for your safety."

"I'll keep still," said Rob.

"I know. Go to bed. Come, I will show you your room."

He led the trembling and wondering boy to a cabin near him and had the black steward bring a light. This room was clean and comfortable.

"Sleep," said the captain. Tomorrow you will have work to do."

Wondering what the captain meant, our hero lay down on the bed, and, though he wept a little, and was much troubled, the youth could not be kept from slumber, and he was soon asleep.

When, after a sleep that was somewhat disturbed by dreams, Rob at last awoke and went on deck, the schooner had come to anchor in a beautiful sheltered bay on the south shore of the river.

And what an amazing and bustling scene met Rob's astonished gaze.

CHAPTER V.

The "Black Cat" lay peacefully in a bay that was, to all appearance, from Rob's point of view on deck, completely surrounded by water. It was evidently a deep bay, with a winding entrance, so that the great river could not be seen from it, and the anchorage of the schooner could not be seen from the river. The water was as smooth as glass. The shores of the bay, nearest the schooner, were low and gradually sloping. Near the water's edge there was a long line of sand. Above and beyond this there was higher ground, with plentiful verdure, flowering plants and trees.

But it was not the natural beauty of the place, great as it was, that attracted Rob's attention.

There were, plying from schooner to shore and back again, three or four boats, manned by men as black as negroes, stripped to the waist and straining at the paddles till the perspiration glistened on their skin. These boats were not like the small boats of the "Black Cat." They were large, flat things, evidently used for conveying goods from the vessel to the shore. And that is just what these men were doing.

Rob had paid some attention to political matters, and while studying in school about various South American republics, had also taken up the constitution of each, and the points of difference in their governments. He had read the tariffs of all, and recalled the fact that there was a large duty on tobacco and rum in the Argentine Republic. There was an odor of tobacco in the air, and Rob was not long in reaching the conclusion that these men were engaged in the dangerous business of smuggling tobacco and rum into the country without paying this duty.

(To be continued.)

Whims of Race Horses.

From the Washington Star: "Talking about people being peculiar," remarked an old trainer out at the Benning race track the other day, "if there is anything more peculiar than race horses I haven't come across it. Race horses, I mean thoroughbreds, of course, are as full of whims as well, as a woman, and you've got to humor them just the same as women."

I remember one I trained some years ago—a horse, I mean, of course. He was a great one, and few of them could show him the way in. Yet that fellow couldn't be exercised in preparing him for a race unless the boy on him was rigged out in the stable's regular colors. You couldn't fool him about it, either, for he knew just as well whether the boy was fully dressed as we did, and if he wasn't you couldn't get the old fellow on the track. But when the boy put on the duds, why, the old horse would go out and do all that was wanted of him."

"Then there was another that I had that wouldn't associate with other horses, and the consequence was that we had to train him by himself. Actually had to wait every time until every other horse was off the track. Then, when he had the whole track to himself, we had all we could do to get him off when we thought he had been given enough. This same one we had to send to the post by himself, and when we got him there we had to keep him away to one side, off from the bunch. Another one I had was just the opposite, for he wouldn't go on the track, either for exercise or for a race, unless he was accompanied by another horse."

"Then there is the horse that runs true as long as he is in the lead, but will stop and give up the fight the moment another one gets near him or passes him. On the other hand, there is the horse that tries all the harder as long as he is behind. Then there is the horse that will not try if the jockey has a whip, while there are others that will not try unless they are given both whip and spurs. But, as I said, they are very peculiar, and have as many whims as mankind."

Misunderstood.

Mixtikofski, the butler (sticking his head in cautiously)—"Did your terror-ship call me?"

Xtypmw Xizxmawitch—"No, you idiot! I was only sneezing!"—Harp-er's Bazar.

GEN. WOOD IN CHARGE.

New Governor General of Cuba Assumes the Duties of Office.

HIS DEMEANOR PLEASES CUBANS.

Members of Brooke's Advisory Cabinet Hand in Resignation—Criticism Are Passed on the Proclamation of the Outgoing Official—Government on a Broader Scale.

HAVANA, Dec. 22.—Major General Leonard Wood formally took charge of the governor general's office at 9 o'clock this morning. His first act was to accept the resignation of the members of the advisory cabinet of General Brooke. These officers, after considering the question over night, had decided to insist on retiring. Almost without exception they had rendered themselves particularly obnoxious to a majority of the Cubans. One prominent Cuban general said today:

"The only chance General Brooke's secretaries have, if they wish to rehabilitate themselves in the eyes of their countrymen, is to resign, and thus for a time to bring forgetfulness."

The same general, discussing General Brooke's farewell proclamation, said:

"The proclamation was ill-advised. Cuba is bound, in the course of time, with food and without war, to arrive at a state of comparative comfort. No man has a right to regard himself as the sole cause of such improvements. As a matter of fact, under General Brooke's administration the military authorities overrode the civil and there is less civil government now than before. As to the courts, they are the same corrupt organizations and are virtually unchanged in any important particular. All this, in my opinion, most Cubans attribute to the bad advice given General Brooke by his secretaries."

The Lucha, contrasting General Brooke with General Wood's advent, says:

"General Brooke's proclamation was unfortunate as it contained errors. General Wood, although promising nothing, speaks volumes by his quiet, domestic manner of taking charge of affairs."

It is believed here that the post of chief of staff will be abolished and that General Chaffee will succeed General Wilson as governor of the department of Matanzas-Santa Clara, or will remain in the department of Havana-Pinar del Rio, General Ludlow succeeding General Wilson.

It is believed no governor will be appointed for the Santiago department, but that an experiment in civil government on a much broader scale than ever before will be initiated there, Governor General Wood having supervision of the experiment from Havana.

General Wood this afternoon visited the prison and penitentiary and seemed much pleased, although he declined to comment on the experience. He was accompanied by Generals Ludlow and Chaffee.

There have been no fresh developments in the arrest of the ten custom house appraisers yesterday. The whole matter is being thoroughly investigated.

ONE LAWYER KILLS ANOTHER.

Counsel on Opposite Sides of a Case in a Fatal Duel.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22.—A special to the post-Dispatch from Dallas, Tex., says: F. M. Etheridge, one of the most prominent lawyers in the city, today shot Attorney Edwin O. Harrell, who is equally well known, four times, in a crowded elevator in the North Texas building. Harrell died later at his home.

Harrell had a pistol half cocked in his hand as he fell in the lobby in front of the elevator shaft. Etheridge is in custody.

The men were employed as counsel on opposite sides in litigation involving cotton mill property and quarreled concerning professional affairs.

BOUTELLE IS SERIOUSLY ILL.

Congressman From Maine Stricken While in Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 22.—Congressman C. A. Boutelle of Maine, who is at Young's hotel, has been taken seriously ill. The nature of his trouble is not given out.

Every endeavor was made to keep news of the congressman's illness quiet. A bulletin given out this (Friday) morning stated that the congressman was suffering from congestion of the brain, induced by a severe attack of indigestion. It was the opinion of the physicians that the malady is only temporary.

FILIPINOS BUY ARTILLERY.

Place Big Order for Heavy Guns With a Continental Firm.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—An authority who is to be relied upon for the information he gives told me yesterday that the Filipinos have placed a large order with a continental firm for artillery.

"But," I asked him, "where are the Filipinos getting the money?"

"Oh," he said, "they have plenty of money to keep things going."

Prominent Man Suicides.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Winslow Robinson, a wealthy resident of Stapleton, S. I., died at his home there tonight from a pistol shot wound, inflicted an hour before. The police have reported the case as one of suicide. The family claim it was accidental shooting. Mr. Robinson had been in poor health for a long time.

Edgar G. Williams, 51 years of age, formerly a manufacturer of mechanical and iron toys, committed suicide in a Brooklyn hotel today by shooting himself through the heart, because of business and family troubles.

CARNEGIE OPENS HIS PURSE.

Offers to Make the City of Lincoln Present of a Library Building.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Chairman Mercer of the public buildings and grounds committee today received a letter from Andrew Carnegie announcing that he would give \$75,000 to the city of Lincoln for a public library building, the Lincoln library having burned down in the disastrous fire of several months ago.

The conditions surrounding this gift, Mr. Mercer believes, will be the same as those exacted from other cities. Washington, Fairfield, Ia., Savannah and Pittsburg, that the city must donate a site and guarantee a certain yearly sum for its maintenance, which will probably amount to \$5,000.

This is the most munificent Christmas gift the state of Nebraska has ever received and will be, undoubtedly, accepted by the municipality of Lincoln. Carnegie has given in this way upwards of \$2,000,000 for libraries throughout the United States.

LINCOLN, Dec. 22.—Members of the Lincoln Public Library board have been corresponding with Andrew Carnegie for several weeks with a view to securing a donation for the construction of a library building, and although he spoke encouragingly of the plan from the start, it was not known till tonight that their efforts had met with success. It is supposed that the gift is made conditional on the city of Lincoln, making an annual appropriation of a specified sum for maintaining the library and purchasing new books and periodicals, and that it shall furnish a suitable site for the building, all of which will undoubtedly be complied with by the city council.

The Lincoln public library was destroyed by fire with the Masonic Temple building three months ago. Since then about 3,000 volumes have been collected for a new library and the available funds remaining in the treasury amount to about \$6,000. The annual levy made by the city council for the library is \$1,000, which brings in a revenue of only \$5,000 a year. Unless the conditions are such that they cannot be complied with by the council, the donation, will, of course, be accepted.

SENATOR JONES FULL OF HOPE.

Says the Democratic Prospects Are Brighter Than Ever.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Senator James K. Jones, chairman of the democratic national committee, looked into party affairs at headquarters in the Unity building today. He assured everybody that the prospects for democratic success next year are brighter than they were in 1896. He said only W. J. Bryan would be mentioned as candidate for president in the convention. The senator would not say where or when he thought the convention should be held. He denied a story sent from Washington that he had repudiated the system of collecting money for a campaign fund and had discharged Richard S. Taylor, one of the collectors.

"The system of collecting money," he continued, "was inaugurated by me. It has been a success and is worthy the support of all democrats. There are no differences between former Governor Stone and myself and never have been. I approve all he did while I was in Europe."

THE PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS.

Will Be Spent Quietly Owing to Illness of Mrs. McKinley.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Many senators and representatives called upon the president today to pay their respects and extend their Christmas greetings before leaving for their homes to spend the holiday season. Among them was Representative Richardson, the democratic leader of the house, who was accompanied by Representative McClellan, and Representative Stallings of Alabama. The president is very cordial in his responses to these evidences of good will. He appears to be enjoying exceptionally good health. No extensive preparations are making for the Christmas celebration at the White House this season, owing to the state of Mrs. McKinley's health, and the day will probably be a very quiet one. Miss Grace McKinley and Miss Sarah Duncan, nieces of the president, will be guests at the White House during the holidays. Abner McKinley and his wife also will be here.

Sheepmen Ask Legislation.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 22.—Four days of warm weather is promised during the annual convention of the National Live-Stock association, which convenes here on the 16th of next month. The subjects which will cause these discussions are:

The reopening of the forest reserves to sheepmen; terminal charges at the Chicago market; feeding in transit rates on live stock shipments and the leasing of public lands.

May Call the Legislature.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 22.—Paul B. Moore, private secretary to Governor Stevens, in an interview today, expressed the opinion that Governor Stevens would call an extra session of the Missouri legislature some time in January, in an endeavor to secure the enactment of a law for the taxation of franchises. Governor Stevens is out of the city.

Increase in Russian Cereals.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 22.—The Central Agricultural bureau has published a report showing an increase of 20 per cent in winter cereals over 1898 and an increase of 17 per cent upon the average of the last five years.

Trouble Brewing in Jamaica.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Dec. 11.—Owing to the growin' seriousness of the South African war prospects, particularly the probable withdrawal of the imperial garrisons from the colonies, coincident with the unprecedented drafting of French troops to the West Indies, a proposal is afloat to augment the British West Indian militia, under special conscription. It is proposed to increase Jamaica's force from one regiment or 800 men to possibly twenty-four regiments, as in 1836, the exigencies of the present situation being regarded as of an exceptionally grave and menacing character.

LIVE STOCK AND PRODUCE.

Omaha, Chicago and New York Market.

Quotations.

SOUTH OMAHA LIVE STOCK.—CATTLE.—Stockers and feeders in good demand at firm prices. If anything light, cattle, which have been rather slow sale, seemed to be in better demand, and they moved a little more freely. Quotations: Beef steers, \$3.75 to \$5.75; cows, \$3.25 to \$4.75; heifers, \$3.00 to \$4.50; calves, \$2.50 to \$3.50; stockers and feeders, \$3.75 to \$5.75.

HOGS.—There was a very active demand for hogs this morning and in consequence of that fact the market was a strong one higher. The offerings changed hands rapidly and it was not long until the hogs were practically all sold. The popular price was \$4.00, with a good many sales above that figure, while yesterday the bulk went at \$3.95 to \$4.05. Sellers were well pleased with the market.

SHEEP.—Only a few sheep were in the pens and as buyers seemed to have use for a few the market was in good shape and the prices paid were steady to strong. Shippers must understand that the feeling at this point is that present prices are only maintained by the very light run and that with anything like liberal receipts at any of the market points there would be a decided break in prices. In other words operators on the market do not expect much of any demand until after the holidays are over with and the poultry markets are cleaned up.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—CATTLE.—Good to choice native steers, market stronger, others steady; cows and canners, steady; stockers and feeders, firm; hogs, \$4.25 to \$4.50; cows, \$3.00 to \$4.00; heifers, \$3.00 to \$4.00; canners, \$2.00 to \$3.00; stockers and feeders, \$3.00 to \$4.00; Texas fed steers, \$4.25 to \$4.50; rough heavy, \$3.00 to \$4.00; light, \$3.50 to \$4.00; bulk of cows, \$3.00 to \$4.00; SHEEP.—Market stronger; native wethers, \$3.00 to \$4.00; western, \$3.00 to \$4.00; lambs, natives, \$4.00 to \$5.00; westerns, \$4.00 to \$5.00.

CHICAGO PRODUCE MARKET.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—WHEAT—No. 3, spring, 64¢ to 65¢; No. 2 red, 64¢ to 65¢; CORN—No. 2, 39¢ to 40¢; No. 2 yellow, 39¢ to 40¢.

OATS—No. 2, 23¢ to 24¢; No. 2 white, 23¢ to 24¢; No. 3 white, 22¢ to 23¢; RYE—No. 2, 36¢ to 37¢; No. 3, 35¢ to 36¢; BARLEY—No. 2, 38¢ to 39¢; No. 3, 37¢ to 38¢; FLAXSEED—No. 1 and No. 1 north-western, \$1.40 to \$1.45; FRUITS.—TIMOTHY—No. 1, 12¢ to 13¢; PROVISIONS.—Mess pork, per bbl., \$8.70 to \$9.00; lard, per 100 lbs., \$10.00 to \$10.50; short ribs, sides, loose, \$3.50 to \$4.00; dry salt shoulders, boxed, \$3.00 to \$3.50; short clear sides, boxed, \$3.00 to \$3.50.

KANSAS CITY LIVE STOCK.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 22.—CATTLE.—Natives, active and strong; heavy native steers, \$4.25 to \$5.00; light weights, \$4.00 to \$4.50; stockers and feeders, \$3.25 to \$4.00; butcher cows and heifers, \$3.00 to \$4.00; calves, \$2.50 to \$3.50; fed westerns, \$3.75 to \$4.50; western feeders, \$3.50 to \$4.50; Texas, \$3.00 to \$4.00.

HOGS.—Active; about 50,000; higher; heavy and mixed, \$4.00 to \$4.25; lights, \$3.75 to \$4.00; pigs, \$3.50 to \$3.75.

SHEEP.—Steady to 10¢ higher; lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.00; muttons, \$3.00 to \$3.50; stockers and feeders, \$3.00 to \$4.00; culs, \$1.50 to \$2.00.

HITS THE WILD WEST SHOWS.

No More Indians Leave the Reservations for Exhibition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—A new departure in the policy of the Department of the Interior is emphasized by its refusal to permit the removal of Indians for exhibition purposes, and Secretary Hitchcock and Commissioner of Indian Affairs Jones have determined to stop the abuses of the privileges and have so stated in a number of communications lately. Mr. Jones said today: "There will be no more Indians permitted to leave their reservations for wild west exhibition purposes. They cannot secure the consent of the Indian bureau for their exhibition, save it be along the lines showing the progress of Indian education. The day of the department's permitting Indians to be let for wild west shows and such affairs is past. It demoralizes the Indians, many of whom would dress in citizens' clothes and otherwise conform to more civilized ways but for the dollars and cents there is in continuing their customs."

Refrigerator Plant for Manila.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—A large refrigerating plant is soon to be erected in Manila by the United States under the direction of Major L. S. Pouldez of the quartermaster's department. It will occupy a building 250 feet square and forty-five feet high, to be located on the left bank of the Pasig river. The cooling room will be large enough to contain at once 5,000 beefs, 7,500 sheep and 100 tons each of salt meats, butter and eggs and vegetables enough to supply the American army in the Philippines for some time. In addition to this the plant will produce fifty tons of ice and 6,000 gallons of distilled water every day.

Daniel Webster's Statue.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The joint committee of senators, representatives and citizens of the District appointed to make arrangements for the unveiling of the statue of Daniel Webster, presented to the government by Stinson Hutchins, met today and perfected the plans. The exercises will be held at the Lafayette opera house January 18. Senator Chandler of New Hampshire will preside and Senator Lodge of Massachusetts will deliver the address.

Lawton's Body in Chapel.

MANILA, Dec. 22.—General Lawton's remains were placed in the chapel in the Paco cemetery this morning. Private services were held at the residence and the body was carried to the cemetery by members of the general's staff and escorted by Troop I of the Fourth cavalry. Public services will be held later.

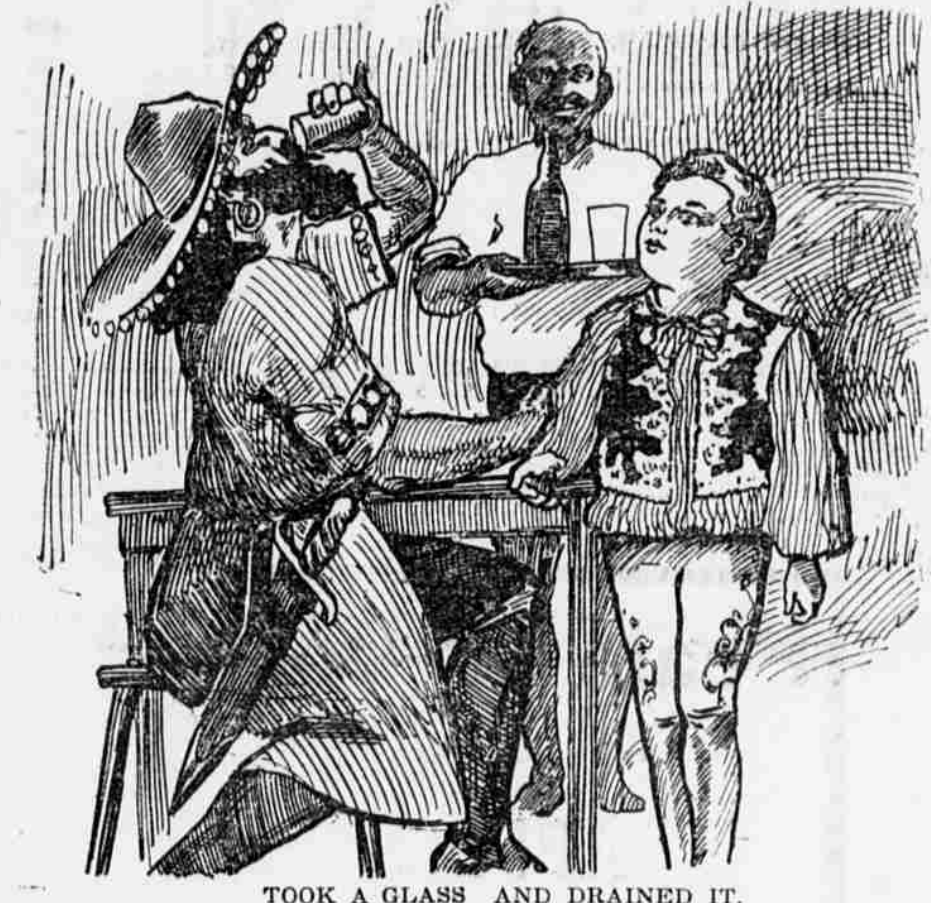
Burial of Maine's Dead.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The navy department has announced that the services at Arlington, attending the burial of the Maine's dead which are coming on the Texas, will take place at 11 o'clock a. m. on the 28th inst.

Harding Succeeds Dorringer.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 22.—Russell Harding, vice president and general manager of the Cotton Belt railroad, has resigned, to take effect January 1, 1900. Mr. Harding will succeed General Manager W. B. Dorringer of the Missouri Pacific. The successor of Mr. Harding has not been named. Mr. Dorringer will remain with the Missouri Pacific, holding the position of second vice president.

More helpful than all wisdom is one draught of simple human pity that will not forsake us.—George Eliot.



TOOK A GLASS AND DRAINED IT.

find plenty to wear. Come! You are wet. We must hurry!"

Rob at once began to take off his wet garments, and the captain brought out a rough towel with which he gave the drenched boy a good rub down. Having brought a glow of warmth, he desisted, and Rob dressed himself in the dry garments.

Rob had never been so picturesquely clad before. Nor so richly. First, he put on a suit of the finest underwear, that fitted him very well. Then, over these, he put a pair of white trousers, all embroidered with red silk. Then a silk waistcoat, and over all a fine velvet jacket made gay with lace. Spanish shoes, with fine points, completed the outfit, and were put on over silk stockings, the like of which Rob had never seen before.

The gay clothes transformed Rob into quite a different boy, and he could not restrain a laugh as he looked at himself in a glass.

"And now the young senior will need something to warm him up," said the hospitable captain. He called out a name that Rob did not understand, and in a moment a black fellow appeared. The captain gave an order in Spanish, and the black one disappeared. He soon returned, however, with two glasses of hot mixed rum.

"The young senior will drink it," said the captain.

"No, sir," said Rob. "I thank you, captain, but I never touched a drop of that stuff, and I never will."

"To warm up, senior."

"No, I don't want it. I am warm enough now."

Bob thought of his mother, and the many promises he had made to her that he would never touch a drop of alcoholic drink.

The captain of the "Black Cat" looked in amazement at Rob.

"You won't drink, senior?"

"No."

"Then I will."

He took one glass from the black steward and drained it. He then took the other and sent its contents after the first.

The black boy then took Rob's clothes to dry them.